

Fiscal Services Division

Legislative Services Agency

Fiscal Note

SF 330 - Family Law Proposal (LSB 1075 SV)

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Fiscal Note Version – As amended by S-3072

Description

Senate File 330, as amended by S-3072, relates to family law provisions including dissolution of marriage and domestic relations, termination of parental rights, and child support provisions. The Bill also requires the inclusion of a developmentally appropriate parenting time plan in all decrees and custody orders.

Background

1. In calendar year 2004, the Judicial Branch handled 10,058 dissolution of marriages and 2,123 applications for modification of a dissolution decree.
2. The average time the Judicial Branch spends on a family law case is 103 minutes or \$240 per case.
3. The Department of Human Services has approximately \$400 in one-time costs for changes to employee's manuals, forms, and rules.
4. The Department of Human Services (DHS), Child Support Recovery Unit (CSRU) will enforce the order for child support for a fee of \$25. If there is no order for child support, there is no child support to collect.
5. The CSRU collects \$2,143 per child support order annually in nonpublic assistance cases. The CSRU collects \$1,977 per order annually in public assistance cases.

Assumptions

1. A six month lag is assumed from the time of implementation to the time the first cases are heard by the Judicial Branch.
2. The overall Judicial Branch planning costs for developmentally appropriate parenting time plans are estimated to be \$14,000, which includes the creation of a 12-member special task force, a consultant, and Supreme Court review of the rules.
3. Approximately 60.0% (7,200) of the cases for dissolution of marriage and modification of a dissolution decree involve children.
4. Senate File 330, as amended by S-3072, is estimated to increase the amount of time the Judicial Branch spends per case by approximately five minutes per case for each additional parenting time plan filed for the Judge to review for compliance.
5. If the parenting time plans or any element of the time plans are contested by one of the parties, this will add an additional 15 minutes of court time. It is estimated that 10.0% of the 7,200 cases will be contested in some fashion.
6. The DHS would have a one-time programming cost for adding developmentally appropriate parenting time plans to the Statewide Integrated Child Support Recovery computer system.
7. Senate File 330, as amended by S-3072, requires that the Judicial Branch include a developmentally appropriate parenting time plan in all decrees and custody orders.

Fiscal Impact

The total fiscal impact of SF 330, as amended by S-3072, on the General Fund is \$82,800 in FY 2006 and \$107,600 in FY 2007 as shown below:

	<u>FY 2006</u>	<u>FY 2007</u>
Judicial Branch		
Clerk Processing Time	\$ 8,800	\$ 17,600
Court Time	45,000	90,000
* Court Planning Costs	14,000	0
Total	<u>\$ 67,800</u>	<u>\$ 107,600</u>
Department of Human Services		
* Computer Programming	<u>\$ 15,000</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
Overall Impact of SF 330 as amended by S-3072	<u><u>\$ 82,800</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 107,600</u></u>
* One-time costs		

Sources

Department of Human Services
Judicial Branch

April 4, 2005

The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Fiscal Services Division, Legislative Services Agency to members of the Legislature upon request.
